

## (12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization  
International Bureau(43) International Publication Date  
24 July 2003 (24.07.2003)

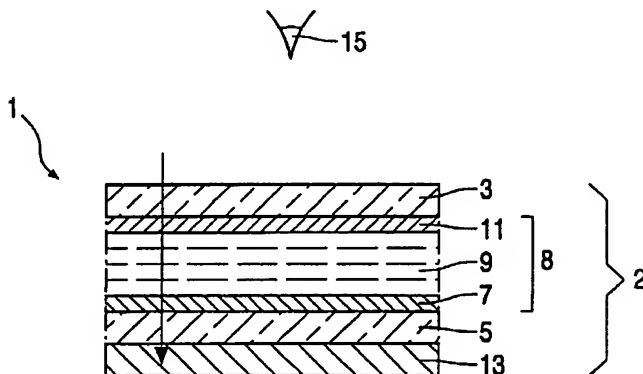
PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
WO 03/060604 A1

- (51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: G02F 1/137, 1/1337, 1/1333
- (21) International Application Number: PCT/IB03/00070
- (22) International Filing Date: 13 January 2003 (13.01.2003)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:  
02075201.0 17 January 2002 (17.01.2002) EP
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- (81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).
- Published:  
— with international search report  
— before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments
- For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: COMBINATION OF CHOLESTERIC LAYER AND ALIGNMENT LAYER

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(57) **Abstract:** A cholesteric layer switchable between a wavelength-selectively reflective state and a transmissive state is in direct contact with a homeotropic orientation layer. In the reflective state the layer is cholesterically ordered in helices characterized by a helical direction and a helical pitch. The homeotropic layer broadens the distribution of helical axis directions thus rendering the light reflected in the reflective state more diffuse and rendering the color reflected by the cholesteric layer less dependent on viewing angle. Alternatively, the cholesteric layer may be a polymerized layer.